H. R. 2627

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

AN ACT

- To establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.
 - 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
 - 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- 2 This Act may be cited as the "Act Commemorating"
- 3 the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison".
- 4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.
- 5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- 6 (1) The Edison National Historic Site, located
- 7 in West Orange, New Jersey, is a vital part of
- 8 America's national system of parks which preserves
- 9 Thomas Alva Edison's research and development
- laboratories, library, papers, and artifacts, as well as
- 11 his home.
- 12 (2) The Site is a national historic treasure and
- contains the world's largest collection of materials
- 14 related to Thomas Edison, encompassing an esti-
- 15 mated 5,000,000 pages of documents, over 400,000
- artifacts, approximately 35,000 sound recordings,
- and 10,000 books from Edison's personal library.
- 18 (3) Thomas Edison is one of America's greatest
- inventors, whose inexhaustible energy and genius
- produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, more than
- any other American, including patents for the incan-
- descent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and
- 23 the phonograph.
- 24 (4) In 1928, Thomas Edison was awarded the
- 25 Congressional Gold Medal for the "development and

- application of inventions that have revolutionizedcivilization in the last century."
- 5) In 1998, Congress again honored Thomas
 Edison by directing the Secretary of the Treasury to
 mint a commemorative coin celebrating the 125th
 anniversary of Edison's invention of the light bulb,
 celebrated in 2004.
 - (6) The Edison National Historic Site is one of America's most endangered historic places. The National Park Service, in its General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan, identified the need for numerous actions to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Site and determined that sufficient government funds are not likely to be appropriated to complete these necessary actions in the foreseeable future.
 - (7) On November 6, 1997, the National Park Service signed an agreement with the Thomas Alva Edison Preservation Foundation (now the Edison Preservation Foundation), establishing a public-private partnership to jointly raise money to fund identified improvements at the Edison National Historic Site so as to leave the Site unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
- 25 (b) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are—

1	(1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas
2	Alva Edison and his innovations; and
3	(2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance
4	the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public
5	use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, sci-
6	entific, and cultural center.
7	SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.
8	(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
9	Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the
10	National Park System (hereafter the "Historical Park").
11	(b) Boundaries.—The Historical Park shall be com-
12	prised of—
13	(1) all property owned by the United States in
14	the Edison National Historic Site as well as all
15	property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary
16	of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National
17	Historic Site before the date of the enactment of
18	this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled
19	the "Edison National Historic Site", numbered
20	20003B, and dated April 1977; and
21	(2) all property authorized to be acquired for
22	inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other
23	law enacted after the date of the enactment of this
24	Act.

- 1 (c) Map.—The map of the Historical Park shall be
- 2 on file and available for public inspection in the appro-
- 3 priate offices of the National Park Service.

4 SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

- 5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
- 6 the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with
- 7 the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the
- 8 National Park System, including the Acts entitled "An
- 9 Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other
- 10 purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16
- 11 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and "An Act to provide for the preserva-
- 12 tion of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and an-
- 13 tiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,"
- 14 approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).
- (b) Acquisition of Property.—
- 16 (1) Real property.—The Secretary may ac-
- quire land or interests in land within the boundaries
- of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by
- donation, purchase with donated or appropriated
- funds, or exchange.
- 21 (2) Personal Property.—The Secretary may
- acquire personal property associated with, and ap-
- propriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.
- 24 (c) Cooperative Agreements.—The Secretary
- 25 may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with

- 1 interested entities and individuals to provide for the pres-
- 2 ervation, development, interpretation, and use of the His-
- 3 torical Park.
- 4 (d) Repeal of Superseded Law.—Public Law 87—
- 5 628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and ad-
- 6 ministration of the Edison National Historic Site, is re-
- 7 pealed.
- 8 (e) References.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
- 9 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
- 10 States to the "Edison National Historic Site" shall be
- 11 deemed to be a reference to the "Thomas Edison National
- 12 Historical Park".
- 13 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 14 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
- 15 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives November 13, 2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,

Clerk.